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University of Arizona, Tucson

Rise in students, but drop in classes

BY KAILA WYMAN
Staff Writer

The university has cut about 7 percent — or 231 — of its undergraduate class sections in the last two years, although the number of undergraduate students at UA has grown by 7 percent in the same period.

This year, there are 3,119 classes — 69 fewer than last year — offered to accommodate the 28,278 undergraduates currently enrolled.

While there are 2,020 more students here than there were four years ago, 257 class sections have been cut over those years.

Budget cuts have left colleges no choice but to combine and cut classes in order to make cuts, said Rick Kroc, director of assessment and enrollment research.

Administrators are looking at options to alleviate the pressure put on students finding classes partly by hiring graduate students to teach classes, Kroc said.

"From the president on down, we have a very strong commitment; but it's also a real tough time," Kroc said.

The state's budget deficit and resulting cuts to the UA have forced the university to cut courses.

Budget cuts last year cost the university almost \$16.6 million — 4.8 percent of UA's annual state funding — last year which has brought the UA to its current predicament.

The UA has lost an additional \$10 million more so far this year.

"How could you not take a cut that deep and not impact one of the most important things you do (offering classes to students)?" Richardson said.

"I think that we are going to do everything we can with budget cuts to accommodate students," he added. "Does that mean no students will be affected by canceled classes? Absolutely not."

The institution's goal, Richardson said, is to make sure each student who wants a full schedule — at least 12 units — is able to receive one, and that each of those classes apply to the student's major.

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EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Projecting sound

Ben McCartney, a fourth year music performance doctoral student, plays guitar in a film installation project for the media arts introduction to film production class last night outside the Marroney Theatre. As McCartney performed, television monitors surrounding him displayed a live video-feed of audience members watching themselves watching him.

Coaches cost too much to axe

BY RYAN GABRIELSON
Staff Writer

Patience is not a virtue most college football programs have been showing their coaches in recent years, but it is something the UA's administrators and fans will likely have to muster with John Mackovic.

The cost of firing Mackovic — which could result in forcing the elimination of jobs in the athletics department — could keep him in place regardless of whether Pete Likins and athletics director Jim Livengood believe the coach can turn Wildcat football into a winning program.

Mackovic has three years remaining on his contract, worth more than \$800,000 a year in base salary. Under his contract, if fired, the coach

would be entitled to half his salary for each of the remaining years, totaling about \$1.2 million, which the UA would owe in addition to the cost of hiring a new coach.

"That'd be a huge concern," said John Perrin, senior associate director of athletics. "We'd just have to find a way. We have to balance our budget and make cuts up to and including staff reductions."

The university is already making the third and final \$200,000 payment due to Dick Tomey, Mackovic's predecessor, since his resignation in November 2000.

Speculation as to whether Mackovic would be replaced after only two years of leading the football program began after about 40 players held a meeting with Likins to complain about the coach's abra-

sive and sometimes demeaning treatment. On Nov. 13, Mackovic held a press conference to apologize to his team.

The Wildcats host ASU Nov. 29 for the last game of the season, in their fourth losing campaign in a row.

Going into the 2001 season, 15 colleges hired new football coaches including the UA, which brought on Mackovic, and ASU, which hired Dirk Koetter.

The salaries given Mackovic and Koetter made them the state's two highest-paid employees.

But even though college football coaches are being paid more and more each year, Livengood said this is happening along with decreased job security.

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Policy on tuition up for review

BY KEREN G. RAZ
Staff Writer

The Arizona Board of Regents will meet at the University Medical Center today to begin discussing whether to change board policies to allow the UA to raise tuition and financial aid and allow colleges on campus to set tuition independently.

Two proposed plans, Changing Directions and Focused Excellence, would change Regents' policies now on the books.

Those changes include allowing the three universities to set different tuitions, and enabling various undergraduate and graduate colleges and departments within each university to set their own tuition.

If you go ...

▶ The Arizona Board of Regents will meet at 1 p.m. today in the Peter Kiewit Auditorium, in the Arizona Cancer Center at 1515 N. Campbell Ave.

▶ A call to the audience is scheduled for 3:05 p.m.

Regents also plan to discuss coupling tuition increases with financial aid, repealing the 25 percent cap on out-of-state student enrollment and eliminating the policies that restrict university presidents from providing services in various counties.

Although the board will only be discussing the proposed changes to current board of regents policies, they plan to take action on the outcome of the discussion at their next meeting in January.

"We're changing policies that will allow for larger changes coming down the pipeline," said Student Regent Matt Meaker, who has a vote on the board.

The larger changes include differentiating each university's missions to make the UA more research-oriented, ASU an educational powerhouse and NAU a residential university.

The board of regents will begin discussing the possibility of allowing university presidents, deans and department heads to set their own, distinct tuition rates rather than conforming to one set tuition for the entire university system.

It is a good idea to amend the policy to allow for different tuitions because it allows the uni-

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DAVID HARDEN/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Head football coach John Mackovic speaks at a press conference on Nov. 13 after about 40 players went to President Pete Likins to complain about his abrasive and sometimes demeaning treatment of them.